**Bharat Nirman Scheme**

1864. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recently approved a massive investment scheme of Rs. 1,74,000 crore for the renewal of rural infrastructure under the composite "Bharat Nirman Scheme" at a meeting of the Committee on Rural Infrastructure held in New Delhi on 16th May, 2005;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, State-wise, allocation-wise and total period likely to be taken by Central Government, to implement this scheme as a whole; and

(c) the details of benefit likely to accrue, under the above mentioned scheme, State-wise particularly to Maharashtra and Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The formulation of 'Bharat Nirman' Programme was announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech in the Union Budget 2005-06. The total investment required for the various components of Bharat Nirman has been estimated to be about Rs. 1,74,000 crores.

(b) and (c) Bharat Nirman is a combination of ongoing schemes, upscaling of ongoing schemes and introduction of new schemes with a view to give focused attention to development of rural infrastructure. The critical areas of rural infrastructure identified for special focus in the States including Maharashtra and Punjab are as follows:

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| **Irrigation** | To create one crore ha. additional irrigation. |
| **Rural Drinking Water** | To provide potable drinking water to 55067 uncovered habitations (as per revised assessment), slipped back habitations, quality affected habitations and rural schools. |
| **Rural Roads** | To connect all villages that have a population of 1000 (or 500 in hilly tribal areas) with road. |
| **Rural Housing** | To construct 60 lakh additional houses for the poor. |
| **Rural Electrification** | To electrify remaining 1,25,000 villages and offer electricity connection to 2.3 crore households. |

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| **Rural Telephone Connectivity** | To give telephone connectivity to remaining 66822 villages. |

Bharat Nirman is a 4 year programme which is scheduled to be completed by 2008-09. However, while the Rural Road Programme would need one more year, the programme of Rural Electrification would extend till the end of the Eleventh Plan. Rural Telephone Connectivity is proposed to be completed in 3 years.

**Implementation of DPAP in Tamil Nadu**

1865. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified drought prone districts in Southern parts of Tamil Nadu for implementation of Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) due to drought situation prevailing there during 2003-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status and break-up of funds released under the DPAP for those drought prone districts in Southern part of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a long term areas development programme, *viz.* Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) on watershed basis in 16 States especially identified by a High Level Technical Committee in 1994 for drought proofing by strengthening natural resource base so as to improve the socio-economic condition of resource poor and disadvantaged sections of the society inhabiting the programme areas. In Tamil Nadu the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) is in operation in 17 districts, namely, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Karur, Krishnagiri, Perambalaur, Pudukottai, Ramanthapuram, Salem, Namakkal, Sivaganga, Thiruvanamalai, Thoothkudi, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelvelli, Vellore and Virudhunagar. Under DPAP Programme, Central share of funds amounting to Rs. 52.19 crores were released to these districts during 2003-05. District-wise and year-wise releases are given in the Statement.